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5 CHARLES DAVIDSON, et al.,  
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7 Plaintiffs,  
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No. C-08-01756 BZ (EDL)

9 v.  
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11 CONOCOPHILLIPS COMPANY,  
12  
13 Defendant.  
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**NOTICE OF SETTLEMENT  
CONFERENCE AND SETTLEMENT  
CONFERENCE ORDER**

15 TO ALL PARTIES AND COUNSEL OF RECORD:

16 The above matter was referred to Magistrate Judge Elizabeth D. Laporte for Settlement  
17 Conference. You are hereby notified that the conference is scheduled for **April 9, 2009** at  
18 **9:30 a.m.**, Courtroom E, 15th Floor, Federal Building, 450 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco,  
19 California 94102. If the above date is not possible for the parties and counsel, or if the parties believe  
20 that settlement discussions would be more productive at a different time, counsel shall confer with each  
21 other and then contact Magistrate Judge Laporte's Courtroom Deputy **within a week** at (415) 522-3694  
22 to determine whether it is possible and appropriate to reschedule the conference.

23 **Lead trial counsel** shall appear at the Settlement Conference with the parties and with the  
24 person or persons having **full authority** to negotiate and to settle the case. In all cases in which a party  
25 is insured, the carrier's claims representative and attorney, if any, with **full authority** to negotiate up  
26 to the limits of coverage shall also attend the Settlement Conference. In cases where settlement  
27 authority rests with a governing body, counsel shall advise the Court and opposing counsel by letter at  
28 least 72 hours prior to the conference, of the manner in which the governing body will appear.

1       Personal attendance by counsel will not be excused under any circumstances and personal  
2 attendance by a party will rarely be excused. Permission for a party to attend by telephone may be  
3 granted, in the Court's discretion, upon written request made at least two weeks in advance of the  
4 conference, if the party lives and works outside of the Northern District of California and the Court  
5 determines that personal attendance would constitute a hardship and is not needed in order to have an  
6 effective settlement conference. The nature of the hardship must be explained. A copy of the written  
7 request must be served on all other parties. Any objection to the request must be submitted within forty-  
8 eight (48) hours of receipt. Both the request and objection may be submitted in letter form either by  
9 mail or facsimile to (415) 522-2002. If telephone attendance is allowed, the party must be available  
10 throughout the entire conference.

11       **On or before March 30, 2009, the parties shall deliver directly to the Magistrate Judge a  
12 Confidential Settlement Conference Statement which should not be filed with the Clerk of the  
13 Court or served upon other parties.**

14       The Confidential Settlement Conference Statement shall not exceed twenty-five (25) pages of  
15 text exclusive of exhibits. (Parties are encouraged to include as exhibits any key documents and  
16 deposition excerpts). The Confidential Settlement Conference Statement shall include the following:

- 17       1.       A brief statement of the facts of the case.
- 18       2.       A brief statement of the claims and defenses including, but not limited to, statutory or  
19 other grounds upon which the claims are founded, a candid, forthright evaluation of the parties'  
20 likelihood of prevailing on the claims and defenses and a description of the major issues in dispute.
- 21       3.       A list of the key facts in dispute and a brief statement of the specific evidence relevant  
22 to those facts.
- 23       4.       A summary of the proceedings to date and any pending motions.
- 24       5.       An estimate of the out of pocket expenses, attorney's fees and time to be expended for  
25 further discovery, pretrial and trial.
- 26       6.       The relief sought, including an itemization of damages.
- 27       7.       The party's position on settlement, including present demands and offers and a history  
28 of past settlement discussions.

1       8. If there have been no prior settlement discussions, plaintiff must serve a demand letter  
2 outlining its theories for recovery, supporting facts and damages in writing **at least 7 days before** the  
3 conference, and defendant must respond in writing **at least 3 days before** the conference.

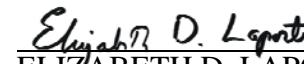
4       It is not unusual for conferences to last two to three hours or more. No participant in the  
5 settlement conference will be permitted to leave the settlement conference before it is concluded without  
6 the permission of the settlement conference judge.

7       Parties are encouraged to participate and frankly discuss their case. Statements they make  
8 during the conference will not be admissible at trial to prove or disprove liability in the event the case  
9 does not settle. The parties should be prepared to discuss such items as their settlement objectives, any  
10 impediments to settlement that they perceive, whether they have enough information to discuss  
11 settlement and, if not, what additional information is needed and the possibility of a creative resolution  
12 of the dispute.

13       Any request to continue the settlement conference shall be submitted in writing as soon as  
14 possible after consultation with the opposing party. **The request must demonstrate a compelling**  
15 **reason for a continuance**, and state whether the opposing party(ies) agree or oppose the request. Any  
16 party who objects to the continuance should submit a written response within 2 business days.  
17 Submission by facsimile is acceptable at facsimile number (415) 522-2002. **A paper copy of all**  
18 **electronically filed documents must be delivered to chambers no later than 12:00 noon on the day**  
19 **after the document is electronically filed.**

20       The parties shall notify Magistrate Judge Laporte's Courtroom Deputy **immediately** at (415)  
21 522-3694 if this case settles prior to the date set for settlement conference.

22       Dated: January 6, 2009

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24       ELIZABETH D. LAPORTE  
25       United States Magistrate Judge  
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